

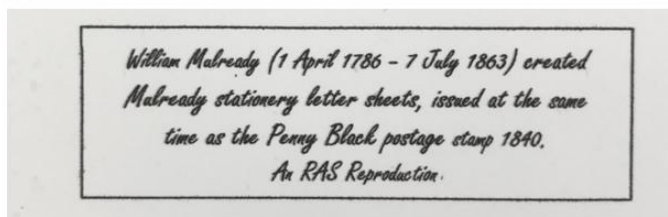
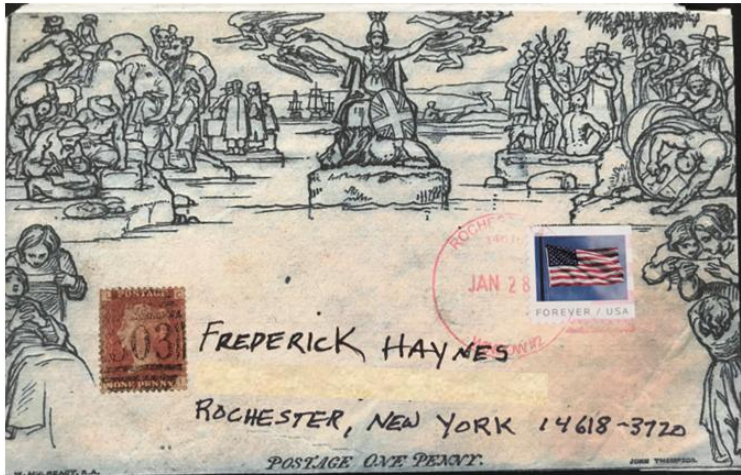


Mulready Cover • ROPEX canceled • Dave and Ruth Linn's Popularity Poll • 1890 Great Britain postal stationery 1939 Royal Train • The Swiss Basel Dove Guaymas "Wheel of Fortune" • My Winter Hobby Bob Steeb • Al Parsons • Alice Johnson

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A Mulready Cover in the Mail ?



month. I'll spend a couple of days sorting through for bargains, then follow those bargains once the auction starts. The auction has what's called a "soft closure". If a bid comes within the last five minutes, an additional five minutes is added to the closure time. So, in theory, bidding can go on infinitum.

Nice Mulready covers can cost a couple of hundred dollars each. One night I said, "Hell, I'm going to make one." I found an image on the Internet. I unfolded an envelope from home, did some measuring, did some positioning of the image on the screen, ink-jet printed it, cut it, folded it, glued it and, lo and behold, had something presentable. I used a thicker card stock for this cover. If you noticed, I did not heavily glue the flap, or use tape. I presume that you saw that and unfolded it carefully. You have my prototype. Others are neater. I put three of them on Ebay at a fairly high price. That didn't work, so I lowered the price recently. We'll see.

William Mulready was the illustrator and gets primary name recognition. John Thompson was the engraver. Mulready's name is at the bottom left and Thompson's is at the bottom right. This is a typical arrangement for 19th Century prints. In those days, engravers were as well known as artists or illustrators. (In addition to stamps, I have an engraving collection.)

According to Wikipedia, "The design incorporated a munificent Britannia at the centre top with a shield and a reclining lion surrounded on either side by a representation of the continents of Asia and North America with people reading their mail in the two lower corners, bestowing the benefits of mail services to the countries of the world under British control."

continued on page 3 (see Mulready Cover)

Editor's note: Imagine my surprise a couple of weeks ago to receive this cover in the mail, complete with a nicely cancelled penny red stamp and an American flag stamp as official postage. The front of the envelope did not reveal its origin, but the neatly scripted text printed onto the back flap told me I had "an RAS Reproduction" of a Mulready Cover. I wonder what the postman thought when we delivered it to my mail slot? The note inside confirmed that I was the lucky recipient of a prototype reproduction. Upon further inquiry, Rich deployed more current communication technology by e-mailing me "the rest of the story." And yes, I had been careful opening my new cover.

By Rich Spinelli

Fred, I am glad it reached you safely and that you enjoy it. Fortunately, our hobby has kept me busy. Unfortunately, I find myself buying more than I am selling. I've found one Auction house which has a sale once a



We regret to report that ROPEX 2021 scheduled for May 21-22 has been canceled due to Covid constraints. We planned to have an up or down decision by early February before making non-refundable financial commitments for tables, advertising and other show needs. There are simply too many issues still in question to go through with final show arrangements, and the health of all RPA volunteers, dealers, and patrons was of paramount importance in our decision.

We are among the first WSP National Stamp Shows to have to cancel for two consecutive years. It is unclear how APS will respond to our decision. Their current rules allow only year to be missed before losing WSP patronage. But this does present the opportunity for an open discussion with the RPA membership about the future of ROPEX and/or any other shows we wish to sponsor moving forward. These have been the major source of income over many years, helping to tip the balance of our club finances in the black.

Upcoming RPA Meetings

RPA has moved its meetings online. You can now attend this winter without leaving the warmth and safety of your home. We are holding meetings on all of our normal dates. Given we cannot meet in-person, we are dropping the pre-meeting social half hour and our meetings now start at 7:30 PM.

The links to join our meetings are sent to members shortly prior to the meetings and are already posted on our [meetings website page](#). Hope to "see" you there.

We do not have assigned programs for our remaining winter and spring 2021 dates. We do have several topics and talks available, but are also waiting to hear from you. Anyone who wishes to present a Zoom meeting from their home computer is welcome to contact Tom Fortunato and sign up for a date. Whether you wish to fill a full evening's program or just share a special moment with your philatelic friends we can make a spot for you.

In January, we asked members to show and discuss a favorite philatelic possession. Several members

did and some of the articles in this newsletter reflect items shared at those meetings.

Our 2021 meeting dates remain the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:30 PM.

February 25
March 11 and March 25
April 8 and April 15
May 13 and May 27

RPA Member Announcement



It happened on Christmas Day. RPA Treasurer Dave Robinson and Ruth Stone were engaged. The couple will be married at Angel Rock in Cape Vincent, New York on May 1, 2021. Ruth is RPA member Ray Stone's sister and had moved to Rochester from Buffalo recently. Invitations will be designed and printed by RPA member Amy Rau. Let's congratulate the happy couple.

From the Editor: You will notice that this issue is jam packed with philatelic input and interesting collecting stories from several RPA club members. This is exactly as it should be. Your editor thanks you and imagines the readers do also. It is the diversity of our collecting interests that make our club unique.

Yes, it is true: Great Britain postal history seems to have "stolen the show" for this issue. But perhaps some of the rest of you can take the next issue elsewhere? Please, take a moment to write a few sentences, take a picture or two and let me, and then, via Hinges and Tongs, the whole club, know where your philatelic journeys are taking you.

Mulready Cover (continued from page 1)

The Mulready illustration was effectively a very elaborate frank indicating that postage had been pre-paid. It competed with the Great Britain stamp. According to Roland Hill, "the public have shown their disregard and even distaste for beauty". Within two months a decision had been made to replace the Mulready designed stationery as essentially they were a "folly". As a result of the uproar the Mulreadys were replaced with a simple design which is commonly known as the Penny Pink. All Mulreadys were recalled by the government. The first attempt was to burn them. That failed. Eventually a machine was designed and built to destroy them by punching out the center of the design. According to Hill, "The Mulready stationery suffered an inglorious demise". And that is why copies today are hard to find cheaply.

This year, I have added to my Great Britain, US and Confederate States collections, sorted through my 1851's for better stamps, searched my 19th Century and WWI letters for any War references and begun to collect cheap, certified stamps. My goal is to find inexpensive stamps or covers with historical significance and add that value to the sale of the stamp. I won't sell dollar stamps or covers.

Linn's US Stamp Popularity Poll

Each year, Linn's asks its subscribers to help decide the best (and worst) of the annual US issues. Member clubs also get one vote and we typically do this at one of our winter meetings. This year Tom Fortunato sent out the link prior to our first January meeting and we consummated our voting at the online meeting. The winners (and losers) are shown below and to the right.

(The Winners)

Best Commemorative Design—American Gardens



four of ten

Most Necessary Commemorative— Women Vote Most Necessary Definitive – Our Lady of Guapulo



Best Definitive Design – Winter Scenes



(The Losers)

Worst Commemorative Design – Hip Hop
Least Necessary Commemorative – Bugs Bunny
Worst Definitive Design – Thank You
Least Necessary Definitive – Let's Celebrate



Great Britain Commemorates Penny Postage in 1890 by Don Brumbaugh

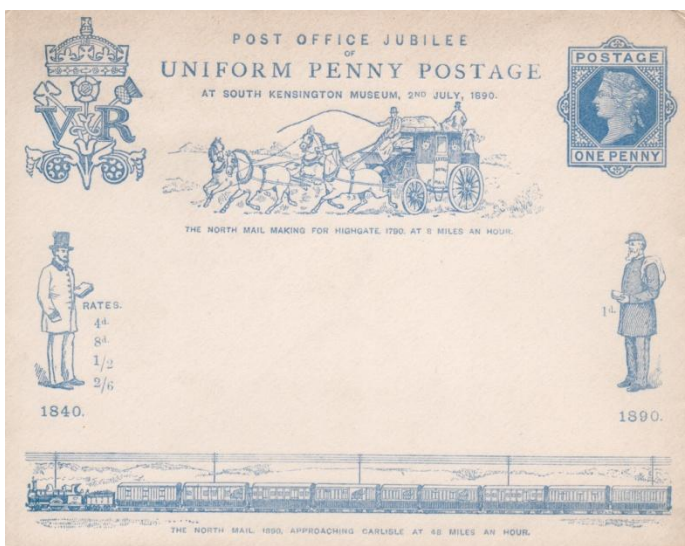
Although Great Britain is famous as the first nation to issue adhesive postage stamps in conjunction with the adoption of universal penny postage in 1840 (the penny black), it was one of the last countries to issue what we think of as a commemorative stamp.



Britain's first commemorative stamps in 1924.

Septimus Spratt, butler to Violet Crawley, the Dowager Countess of Grantham in the PBS TV series *Downton Abbey*, is seen adding "the first commemorative stamps of Great Britain" to his album in one episode. These are the British Empire Exhibition stamps of 1924, the first British adhesive stamps issued to commemorate an event.

However, one of my favorite philatelic items is an issue of Great Britain postal stationery from 1890, 34 years prior to the British Empire Exhibition stamp issue of 1924.



Great Britain commemorative envelope from 1890.

I was drawn to this postal stationery because the design includes a train, my topical stamp interest. The postal piece commemorates an exhibition at the South Kensington Museum in London celebrating the Post Office Jubilee (50th anniversary) of Uniform Penny Postage.

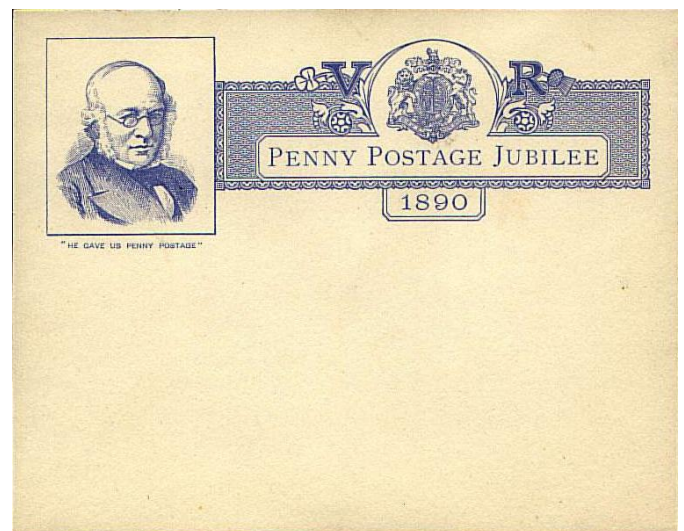
Today we know the South Kensington Museum as the Victoria and Albert Museum, one of London's top attractions. Prince Albert was instrumental in creating the famed Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in London's Hyde Park in 1851. Profits from the Great Exhibition enabled the establishment of the South Kensington Museum as a permanent display of British design and engineering.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/building-the-museum#slideshow=12041177&slide=15>.

This first British commemorative postal stationery is also the first British semi-postal issue, as the price of 1 shilling included 1d for postage and 11d for the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund to aid widows and orphans of postal employees.

<https://alphabetilately.org/TOPS/GreatBr.html>

On the envelope, Queen Victoria's portrait graces the upper right corner framed by the inscriptions 'POSTAGE' and 'ONE PENNY.' The envelope's illustrations compare the transportation of 1790 (mail coach at 5 miles an hour) with that of 1890 (train at 48 miles per hour), as well as the postage rates of 1840 (pre-penny post: 4d, 8d, 1/2 and 2/6) with 1890 (1d, uniform in GB).



The souvenir envelope included a card with a portrait of Sir Rowland Hill inscribed, 'He gave us penny postage' and 'Penny Postage Jubilee 1890.'

1939 Royal Train

by Kelly Armstrong



Before John Stoltz headed south for warmer weather, I bought a few covers from him that lacked cachets. Among those covers, one in particular piqued my interest, so I did some internet research before adding a cachet to complete my new piece.



My personalized Royal Train Cover from 1939

Back in 1939, the British royal family came to North America. This was the first time British monarchs had done this. It was an official state visit and all travel was by train. Two trains were converted into "Royal Trains" complete with the coat of arms and interior upgrades. The Royal Train began its journey in Quebec City on May 18th, traveling through Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Banff before arriving in Vancouver on May 28th. Three days later, the train turned around and headed back east. The east bound journey took them to Jasper, Edmonton, London, Toronto, and Niagara Falls in Canada.

At that point, King George and his bride Queen Elizabeth entered the United States and headed to Washington, DC, and then to Hyde Park, FDR's residence. From there, the train headed northeast and the trip ended in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 15th. The King and Queen made several speeches of goodwill and solidarity. The tour was an opportunity for the British government to show their North American friends how important Canada and the US were to them. By all accounts, the royal family was received well at every stop.

Now for the fun part, at least for me: I decided to convert my unmarked cover to a cachet cover. I added the Royal Family coat of arms which appeared on both the inside and outside of both trains and also my rendition of the front of the Royal

Train. I don't know where the piece was mailed from, but the date of June 8, 1939 fits into the time when the Royal Family was visiting Washington D.C. Now I have an interesting piece to add to my collection of personalized covers.

Reference:

<https://www.themetrains.com/royal-train-main.htm>

A Nonagenarian's Life with Philately by David Durham

It all started when my parents gave me "Scott's International Junior Album" when I was 12; but it took fire in 1948 when my sister married a handsome Swiss and I began to specialize in Swiss material! Soon I subscribed to receive FDCs and mint copies of every new issue and began to work back to that day I finally got the best loved of Swiss stamps, the Basel Dove. Scott #3L1 was issued in 1845 using a printing process that was unique for the time. It was the first multi-colored stamp and also the first in the world depicting an animal.



My copy (to the left) is lightly cancelled in the lower right. It is not in perfect condition so as to demand a really high price, but I do have two certificates of authenticity and acquiring it was certainly a highlight of my philatelic career.

I am a charter member of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society. Helvetia is from the old Latin for "highlander" and is used to avoid a problem of cultural preference as German, Italian, French and Raeto Romansch are all valid languages in Switzerland. However, now "Switzerland" is frequently used also. I did a national display of special Christmas envelopes produced yearly since 1965 - but it got only a bronze medal. Sigh.

I still have my International Junior Album, but it merely accumulates whatever non-Swiss comes my way. In November I celebrated quietly (yes, COVID-19) my 90th birthday, so I fear my collecting days are numbered.



Guaymas Mexico "Wheel of Fortune"

By Larry Rausch



To complement my "**Wheel of Fortune Cancellation**" book, I have finally succeeded in my search for a cover using the **Wheel of Fortune** cancellation from the country of Mexico with this spectacular example -- a registered letter from Guaymas, Mexico to Paris, France having "Five" **Wheel of Fortune** cancellations. Guaymas is located 400 miles south of the USA border near Tucson, Arizona.

From the many cover postmarks on both the obverse and reverse, as shown below, I was able to plot its path of travel. The cover was first mailed in Guaymas, Mexico on August 5, 1887 and traveled north to the USA border at Nogales, Mexico, arriving on Aug 9th. The completion of the Transcontinental Railway in 1869 may have enabled the cover to travel by rail as the piece was next postmarked in New York, NY on Aug 23rd. The final stage of transportation was by ship being postmarked as arriving eleven days later in Paris, France dated Sept 2, 1887.

The auction description follows:

"Mexico, 1886 Numeral unwatermarked, 10c lilac (scott 180), perf 12, two singles, tied by quartered cork handstamp on registered cover to Paris, France, with red Wheel of Fortune handstamps and "Franco, Gauymas, Ago 6, 1887" octagon date stamp also a boxed Gauymas certification date stamp and N.Y. etiquette, reverse with attached original A.R. form franked with 1886 Numeral, 5c blue (scott 178a) tied by Guaymas postmark with unrecorded "Nogales, Ago 9, 1887 Registrado" boxed datestamp."



My Winter Hobby by Reinhard Danger



Since joining the RPA three years ago I have gained new found energy towards my hobby. I have been collecting stamps for well over 60 years. I suppose we all collected stamps in the 1950's. Inexpensive, but for me it became a passion almost immediately, as I enjoy geography and history. It is amazing what you can learn from just one stamp. This passion has not changed, from that first stock album, to now over 30 organized by Continents and Countries in Alphabetical order.

Yes, I collect all current countries in the United Nations but also many former Colonies and Countries that no longer exist. I suppose if pressed to name a favorite, I do like the Danish West Indies (Danish Virgin Islands). I was raised in Denmark and came to the states in 1968. The Caribbean Islands belonged to Denmark until 1917.

The Stamp Club not only renewed my interest, but introduced me to many new aspects of the hobby. Philately is my Winter Hobby. I collect stamps during the summer months and they are put away until the snow flies, at which time my wife Pamela becomes a "stamp widow".

One evening with friends over for dinner, we talked about hobbies. Before you knew it I had inherited 7 years of stamps from Brazil. Our friends had worked there in the '70's and wanted to find a good home for them. Then, when a former neighbor passed away, his wife called to offer me stamps her husband had acquired from his father. They were mostly European, many German, before there even was a Germany. She just wanted me to have them, knowing I would take good care of them.

So now, as the snow is flying, I have started working on the new additions to my collection. This is a very slow process because each commemorative stamp has a story to tell and I want to listen. I have also introduced my 10 year old granddaughter to stamp collecting, including some donated by our members. Hopefully it will take, but I am competing with technology.

I am looking forward to our Thursday meetings and truly regret that I must wait yet another year for the next ROPEX. It is great to be an RPA member, learning something different all the time,

Robert Steeb

July 19, 1930
- December 31, 2020



Long-time RPA member and Rochester stamp dealer Robert "Bob" Steeb passed away on December 31, 2020. Bob lived to see his 90th birthday last summer. He is survived by his wife Elle, herself a lifetime member of RPA and a frequent exhibitor at ROPEX.

Bob was a huge booster of stamp collecting and stamp clubs in Rochester and western New York for the last several decades of the previous century and the first couple of the current one. A glance through past ROPEX programs will tell you that at various times, Bob served with such titles as Exhibition Coordinator, Facilities Consultant, and Dealer Coordinator. Whatever the club needed, Bob would step forward and do, and he would do it well. He worked with passion and had an eye for all those little details that are necessary for success.

Bob was proud of his 36 years of service in the US Navy Reserves SeaBees, having retired from RNMCB-21 Davisville, RI. He was a career carpenter-contractor with his own businesses, RS Wood Specialties and SWM Enterprises. In his later years, Bob turned his stamp collecting interests into businesses (RS Stamp Co. and RS Stamp Shows).



Bob and Elle Steeb at the RPA 2013 Centennial Dinner Celebration

with input from several RPA members and friends

Alan Parsons

March 21, 1928
- February 3, 2021



Long-time RPA member Alan Parsons passed after a relatively short bout with Covid-19 on February 3, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Joan Parsons, and by their two children and their families. Al was 92 years old.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Cornell University Law School, Al practiced commercial and personal law at Sayles & Evans in Elmira, NY. He retired from his law practice some time ago but remained active in the philatelic community until his death.

Al was a well-known philatelist at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Among his major interests were Elmira and Steuben County postal history, first day covers of the 1929 Sullivan Expedition stamp, and Warren Harding philately. His leadership as a long-time chairman, and in other roles, was a major factor in the ongoing success of the STEPEX stamp show hosted by his home club, the Elmira Stamp Club.

Al was a strong supporter and longtime member of the Rochester Philatelic Association and an ardent supporter of ROPEX. For many years he placed one or two exhibits in every ROPEX show. Al served the Empire State Postal History Society as president and in other board positions for many years. His contributions were a significant factor in the ongoing success of the ESPHS. He was a regular contributor to the Stamp Insider regional periodical.

Al was elected to the APS Board of Vice Presidents for the 2005-2007 term. He was a regular attendee at national APS shows as well as other World Series of Philately shows. He organized competitions between the Empire State Postal History Society and the other state postal history groups in the region, fostering communication and friendships among collectors with similar interests.

The philatelic community lost a great ambassador with the passing of Al. He was a gentleman and scholar in all of his personal, professional, and philatelic pursuits. Al was quiet and understated until something needed to be done, and then he suddenly turned into Super Stampman and organized

everybody to do whatever it was that was needed. And when Al was involved, things not only got done, they got done right. He will be remembered as a good and decent man.

with input from several RPA members



Al Parsons receiving the Sweeting Award from RPA Member Ada Prill at ROPEX 2011: his winning exhibit was entitled "Corning NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Served by the Corning Post Office.

Photo by George DeKornfeld

Alice Johnson

March 27, 1949
- September, 2020



Long-time RPA member and ROPEX exhibitor Alice Johnson passed away in September at the age of 71. Alice joined the RPA in 1991 and became a life member in 2016. She was a thematic collector and her primary interests were figure skating and angels. Over the course of many ROPEXs, she entered exhibits on these themes. Her last exhibit in 2013 was entitled "Angels in the Judeo-Christian Era.

Alice also collected postal history of Jamestown, Virginia, having historical interest in the settlement that she visited several times. Alice retired as a long time Monroe County office clerk. In later years she became very interested in birds, especially parrots, and had many at the time of her untimely death.

by Tom Fortunato